

CVES

NEWS THE CENTER FOR
MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES,
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

الفنون والحرف
من بلادنا
كيسه

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FALL 2014

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EXPANDING OUR HORIZONS

2014 CONTINUES TO BE A BUSY YEAR AT CMES. Our Arab Transformation Working Group's History and Politics section, judiciously guided by Professor *Emeritus* Roger Owen, has held several talks on the current situation in the Middle East. Its Literature and Culture section convened a highly successful conference in April, *Middle East Literature in Transition: New Frontiers in the 21st Century*, which focused on literary and cultural production in the 21st-century Middle East. Scholars and students from nine universities and across the Harvard campus presented works from emerging writers, poets, and artists who exemplify the most exciting and innovative trends in Turkish, Hebrew, Persian, and Arabic literary culture.

The fall semester began with a workshop, *Arabic Sources in the Writing of Modern North African History*, attended by students from the Departments of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and History and the Committee on the Study of Religion, as well as faculty from Harvard, Boston University, Holy Cross, Tufts, and Georgetown. Other early fall events included a panel discussion on Gaza and a lecture on sectarian divisions and the changing urban landscape of Baghdad by Radcliffe Visiting Scholar Harith Al-Qarawee.

As we look forward, we seek to expand our horizons to include the Arabian Peninsula at the forefront of our academic and cultural programs. In November, through the generous support of the Radcliffe Foundation, CMES will host three Saudi Arabian scholars and writers for a symposium with Harvard faculty and students titled "Emerging Women Writers in the Arabian Peninsula." In October, HE Jamal bin Huwairb, Managing Director of the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation, United Arab Emirates, delivered a lecture in Arabic on UAE's role in supporting culture. Finally, through the generous support of CMES alumnus Dr. Mazen Jaidah, CMES will launch a new lecture series on Arabian Peninsula Studies, to start in spring 2015.

—WILLIAM GRANARA, CMES DIRECTOR

NEWS AND NOTES

FACULTY NEWS

NEW FACULTY ARRIVALS

CMES welcomes three faculty members to Harvard's Middle East studies community this fall. Kristen Stilt has joined the faculty of the Harvard Law School (HLS) as Professor of Law, and is the new co-director of the Islamic Legal Studies Program. (The program's other co-director, Professor Intisar Rabb, joined the HLS faculty this past spring.) Professor Stilt, a leading expert on Islamic law and society and a graduate of CMES's History & Middle East Studies doctoral program, was most recently the Harry R. Horrow Professor in International Law at Northwestern University School of Law and Professor of History at Northwestern University. Moneera Al-Ghadeer is in residence at CMES this fall as the 2014 Shawwaf Visiting Professor of Arabic, and is teaching two courses in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations.

Joining the Middle East language faculty for the 2014-15 academic year is Persian Preceptor Nicholas Boylston, who is teaching intermediate and elementary Persian.



Dalia Abo-Haggag

PhD students Akif Yerlioglu and Deniz Turker



Meagan Froemming (AM '10), and AM students Aya Majzoub and Jennifer Quigley-Jones

CMES welcomed new and returning faculty, students, visiting researchers, and other members of the Harvard Middle East studies community at our fall reception on September 23, 2014.

Q&A WITH MONEERA AL-GHADEER



Moneera Al-Ghadeer is the Fall 2014 Shawwaf Visiting Professor, and a participant in the November 2014 workshop on Saudi Women Writers organized by CMES Director William Granara and Professor Malika Zeghal. Her research focuses on Arabic and African American literatures, Francophone literature and postcolonial studies, literary theory and translation studies, and Arabic

poetry and oral tradition. We spoke with her in October about her work and teaching.

Your first book, *Desert Voices*, was on Bedouin women's poetry. What got you interested in that topic?

The book is based on an earlier collection of poems called *Sh'rat Min Al-Badiyah (Poets from the Desert)*, that were collected by a poet named

Ibn Raddas. He traveled throughout the desert for a decade and collected these poems, but that collection remained excluded from academic and cultural studies. After I had looked at these poems, and began studying the dialect and understanding the implications—the aesthetic and also cultural and socio-historical significance—I realized that I had found this

(continued on next page)

NEWS AND NOTES

treasure that needed to be preserved and studied and shared. In my study of this work, I wanted to first of all elucidate some of the misconceptions or beliefs about the feminine oral genre, and show also how the rhetorical force of Bedouin women's poetry is not only in its vernacular diction, meter, rhyme, all of the poetic traces and schemes, but also is intertwined with very theoretical questions about politics, gender, and language.

What are you teaching this fall at Harvard?

I'm teaching two literature courses. The first, "The Racialized Other in the Arabian Peninsula Literature and Culture," is in translation. It's a way of introducing the literature of the Arabian peninsula, because we don't really have in the U.S. academy any courses that exclusively focus on this part of the world. Usually I say we have these texts "smuggled in" to literature courses. There is a surge of new writing in the Arabian peninsula, especially from Saudi Arabia. It's really noticeable, and they are winning literary prizes. It's very important to look at

this literary production: we know just glimpses about the different countries in the Arabian peninsula. The students are extremely fascinated by these authors, and are really engaged in discussing them.

My other course is "Invisible Societies in the Contemporary Arabic Novel." For this class, which is taught in Arabic, I experimented with social media. We created a hashtag for the course, [#نائب_هارقارد](#), and the students post two tweets per week in Arabic using this hashtag. Social media creates this amazing platform to reach out to different communities—some of the authors we are reading follow critics who retweeted us, so they know what we are reading. I've also had some of the authors in Skype conversations with the students, and they enjoyed that immensely.

You have been a fiction writer yourself—how did you come to that and to studying literature?

My interest in literature started early in languages. I studied six or so languages when I was young, and that opened windows to the outside world. I majored in

English literature, and then I started writing in Arabic, experimenting with the form of the short story. I was a literary editor at *al-Riyadh* newspaper when I was an undergrad, and that connected me with the literary world, and with language, and ignited my interest in creative writing and world literature. I met a number of writers, from Saudi Arabia and elsewhere, and also all kinds of journalists and scholars coming from the U.S. and Europe. In graduate school I continued to write these experimental short stories at different intervals.

Working in academia took me on another path. After being a professor I stopped writing in Arabic, and writing fiction was put on hold. It's very interesting, when I am tweeting in Arabic I feel like I am returning to a relation with Arabic and poetic language. I feel it's that writer who stopped, I don't know how many years ago, who's writing. As a writer in Arabic my sentence is succinct and highly poetic, so it fits well. It's as if I return to a younger me through Twitter and through returning to Arabic.

→ [Read the full interview at cmes.hmdc.harvard.edu](http://cmes.hmdc.harvard.edu)

STUDENT NEWS

HARVARD MIDDLE EASTERN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

The Harvard GSAS Middle Eastern Cultural Association (HMECA) would like to extend gracious thanks to all those who helped make the Fall Book Sale such a success, from faculty donations and staff support to each and every patron who supported the sale. A fortnightly film screening headlined the club's cultural events this semester, featuring the international hits *A Separation*, *The Gatekeepers*, and *Caramel*. Interdepartmental and interdisciplinary events were also held in cooperation with the Divinity School and Graduate School of Design, with more to come in the spring. Individual HMECA members have also spearheaded the student body's engagement with the wider Harvard and Cambridge community: Elsie van Pinxteren was a panelist and member of the planning committee for Harvard Arab Weekend, Nora Lessersohn opened doors for participation as an organizer of the Boston Palestine Film Festival, and Andrew Watkins presented a paper to the *Middle East Beyond Borders* graduate student workshop.



CMES's 2013-14 Graduates



Asher Orkaby (PhD '14)



Sarah Moawad and
Nicole Abi-Esber (AM '14)

CONGRATULATIONS 2013-14 GRADUATES

JOINT PHD PROGRAMS

- **Yasmine F. Alsaleh** (History of Art and Architecture & MES)—*Dissertation*: “Licit Magic’: The Touch And Sight Of Islamic Talismanic Scrolls”
- **Sa’ed Adel Atshan** (Anthropology & MES)—*Dissertation*: “Dignity and Dependency: The Politics of International Aid Provision in Palestinian Society”
- **Jennifer Thea Gordon** (History & MES)—*Dissertation*: “Obeying Those in Authority: The Hidden Political Message in Twelver Exegesis”
- **Asher Orkaby** (History & MES)—*Dissertation*: “The International History of the Yemen Civil War, 1962–68”
- **Ekin Emine Tusalp** (History & MES)—*Dissertation*: “Political Literacy and the Politics of Eloquence: Ottoman Scribal Community in the Seventeenth Century”

AM PROGRAM

- **Nicole Abi-Esber**
- **Youssef Ben Ismail**
Thesis: “The Political Rise of *Ennahdha*’s Women in Tunisia”
- **Edith Chen**
- **Samah Choudhury**
- **Kathleen Gillen**
- **Yichen Guan**
- **Anna Haleblian**
- **Sarah Moawad**
- **Bandar Shawwaf**
- **Carl-Christian Sieben**
- **Stephanie Sobek**
- **Jason Wimberly**

THE CATS OF CUNDA

When CMES alumna Karen Leal (’89, AM ’94, PhD ’03) packed her bags for a summer at the Intensive Ottoman Turkish Summer School (IOTSS) in 1998, her instructions from the school’s co-founder, the late Harvard professor Şinasi Tekin, included “bring cat food.” The Turkish island where the school is located, Cunda, is well known

for its large population of feral cats. IOTSS co-founders Tekin and Gönül Hanım, Tekin’s wife, both cat lovers, did their best to care for the animals even when the school was not in session. When it was, the students were expected to pitch in. By the end of the summer she spent in Cunda, Leal had grown so attached that she brought three cats home to the United States.

A Harvard-affiliated summer language program might not seem like the most likely place to adopt a cat. However, the IOTSS is not a typical institute. Founded in 1996, the program focuses on Ottoman and modern Turkish and Persian language studies, as well as paleography and 19th century Ottoman texts. The program is intellectually intense, run

by some of the field’s leaders and producing many alumni who have gone on to notable careers. Leal is now the managing editor of *Muqarnas: An Annual on the Visual Cultures of the Islamic World*.

The island location and rigorous program fostered a strong sense of community. “There aren’t a lot of Ottomanists,” explains Barbara

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Petzen, a former doctoral student on Cunda and now president of the Middle East Outreach Council. “We are not a huge field, so being able to make really strong personal connections in your microfield is important. Being away from everything else, and helping each other in this intense experience, I think really bonded people together.” Caring for the cats was an additional bonding experience, and a counterpoint to the academic intensity. “When you’re working with Şinasi Tekin and Gönül Hanım, who were the top people in the field, it’s a little intimidating,” says Petzen. Watching them with the cats, however, was a different story: “They [became] entirely playful and disarmed,” she recalls.

Cemal Kafadar, Vehbi Koç Professor of Turkish Studies, notes that cats as well as dogs have been a part of street life in many Turkish cities for centuries, and that

caring for these animals is often a community effort. “Informal neighborhood networks to feed alley cats were and are a common phenomenon,” Professor Kafadar explains, “but there were also formal endowments made—in Ottoman Istanbul, for instance—to regularly feed certain quantities of liver to the cats of a particular neighborhood, or a certain amount of grain to the birds.”

Cats have also long been associated with scholarship in Turkish culture, so a Harvard institute caring for street strays is oddly appropriate. Since the Safavid period (16th to mid-18th centuries), cats have often appeared in paintings of scholars, and Leal says that they are often found in Turkish bookshops, wandering among the shelves, wayfarers in a sea of books.

→ [Read the full article at cmes.hmdc.harvard.edu](http://cmes.hmdc.harvard.edu)

CMES NEWS

A NOTE FROM CASA

The Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA) stateside offices are now up and running at their new home at CMES. CASA is a year-long intensive advanced level Arabic program. Usually held in Cairo, the program was relocated to Jordan for the current academic year due to recent political events in Egypt. Nevenka Korica Sullivan, senior preceptor in Arabic in the Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations at Harvard, is the program’s Director, and Sarah Stoll, former CMES Administrative Coordinator, has been hired as the Program Coordinator.

This academic year there are twenty-three CASA Fellows undergoing intensive language study (20 hours a week of classroom instruction) at the Qasid Institute in Amman. An additional component of the program, “CASA Without Borders,” gives students opportunities to practice what they learn in the classroom in the real world, and immerses them in Jordanian culture and society. Each Fellow is paired with a volunteer or training opportunity related to their interests at a local NGO, ministry, national initiative, or governmental institution. Their work includes office management, business writing in Arabic, translation, coordinating activities and courses for orphans or refugees, working on environmental activities, and organizing social events for the organizations.

A new Harvard CASA website is in progress; at present, basic information and program updates can be found at http://projects.iq.harvard.edu/casa_at_harvard. Inquires may be directed to Sarah Stoll at casaprogram1967@gmail.com.



STAFF CHANGES

The summer and fall have brought several staffing changes to CMES. Sarah Stoll, CMES's long-term Administrative Coordinator, is pursuing the next phase of her career here at CMES in the position of CASA Program Coordinator. With an MA in Arts Administration, over ten years of previous non-profit program management experience, and an intimate working knowledge of all aspects of CMES, Stoll was the ideal candidate for the position.

Michelle Monestime, CMES's Financial Associate, has taken a well-deserved opportunity in her area of expertise to become the Senior Sponsored Research Administrator in Harvard's Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology.

Also this summer we bid farewell to our CMES Outreach Program colleagues Sarah Meyrick and Anna Mudd, whose roles ended in conjunction with the expiration of CMES's 2010–2014 Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center grant in August. Meyrick and Mudd have our sincere thanks for all of their dedication and hard work over the past several years at CMES and best wishes for the future on behalf of everyone at CMES.

ROOM 102 RENOVATIONS

Our event space got a facelift this summer with a fresh paint job and the removal of the partial wall and pocket doors that previously divided rooms 102 and 101. The newly unified room has extra seating capacity—useful at several recent overflowing events—and a lighter, more spacious atmosphere. If you haven't visited us yet this fall, stop by to see the new look!

Seating capacity increased by:

40%



Room 102 is open to students as study space between events

CMES RECEIVES 2014–2018 FLAS FUNDING

CMES is very pleased to announce that we have been awarded a Title VI Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) grant from the U.S. Department of Education for the 2014–2018 grant cycle. FLAS grants provide fellowship funding to enable meritorious undergraduate and graduate students to pursue advanced training in modern foreign languages and research in related

fields. CMES-awarded FLAS fellowships enable Harvard students from CMES's graduate programs and across the university to study advanced Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, and Turkish at Harvard and at approved summer study abroad programs. Past FLAS award winners from Harvard have achieved extraordinary professional success in the fields of international

business, law, diplomacy, journalism, and academia. From teaching positions at the finest American universities to careers with the U.S. Department of State, the *New York Times*, and McKinsey and Company, CMES FLAS recipients are distinguished professionals who are contributing directly to increasing knowledge, understanding, and expertise about the Middle East region.

UPCOMING EVENTS

→ A complete list of upcoming events can be found at cmes.hmdc.harvard.edu

CMES DIRECTOR'S SERIES

So far this fall the CMES Director's Series has featured talks by Nicola Carpentieri (University of Manchester) on mental disorder in the Arabic commentaries on the Hippocratic aphorisms, and by Tarek El-Ariss (University of Texas at Austin) on Ahmad Faris al-Shidyaaq's critique of the Enlightenment in 1850s England. Three lectures are still to come.

NOV
13

From Arab "Spring" to Arab "Chaos": Can Gulf States Stabilize the Arab World? **Amine Jaoui**, Fellow, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs | 4:00–6:00PM

NOV
20

Toward a Comparative History of the Modern Mediterranean **Edmund ("Terry") Burke III**, Professor Emeritus of History and Founder (former Director), Center for World History, University of California, Santa Cruz | 4:00–6:00PM

DEC
3

Orientalism and the Apocalypse **Mohammed Sharafuddin**, Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Sana'a University, Yemen | 12:00–2:00PM

SPRING CONFERENCES

APR
16–17

The Thousand and One Nights: Sources, Transformations, and Relationship with Literature, the Arts, and the Sciences: Organized by CMES Director William Granara, Sandra Naddaff (Harvard University), and Aboubakr Chraïbi (INALCO, Paris), this conference will explore the dense and fluid textual networks created by the *Arabian Nights* and its many translations, versions, and transformations. Four panels will cover: the manuscripts of the *Nights* and middle Arabic literature; Antoine Galland's translation and the 18th century; the *Nights*, world literature, and the arts; and the *Nights*, the humanities, and the sciences. The conference is sponsored by the CMES Working Group on Middle Eastern Literatures and the Departments of Comparative Literature and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, in conjunction with Centre de Recherche Moyen-Orient Méditerranée de l'INALCO (ANR MSFIMA : Les Mille et une nuits : Sources et Fonctions dans l'Islam Médiéval Arabe).

MAY
1–2

Iranian Cities from the Arab Conquest to the Early Modern Period: Organized by Professor Roy P. Mottahedeh, this conference will consider the social and economic history of Iranian cities and their hinterlands from the 7th to the 15th centuries (excluding the Safavid and Qajar periods), and including Persianate areas beyond the borders of modern-day Iran. Topics considered will include questions of arrangement such as the placement of symbols of authority and markets, systems of water distribution, rents and land ownership, the public space available to women, patterns of trade between cities, and inhabitants' sense of "belonging" to their city or neighborhood. The conference and a subsequent publication will be funded by CMES's new Neekeyfar Fund for Iranian Studies, which was made possible by a generous anonymous donation to the Center.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH 2014

The Gezi Protests and Dissident Visions of Turkey:

A roundtable discussion sponsored by CMES, the Political Anthropology Working Group, and *Jadaliyya*.

The Politics of Knowledge Production Today: Pedagogy, Policy, and Real Time, Bassam Haddad, George Mason University; *Constructing Politics: Infrastructure and Public Space in Istanbul*, Elizabeth Angell, Columbia University; *Heterogeneous Rootedness: Gezi as a Global Event in Contemporary Turkish Literature*, Ceyhan Arslan, Harvard University; *Engendering Biographies & Bibliographies: Women's Movement, Critical Media Practice, and Gezi*, Cihan Tekay, CUNY-Graduate Center;



PhD student Emrah Yildiz

Formations of the Areligious: Secularism, Islamism and Alignments of Dissent after Gezi, Emrah Yildiz, Harvard University; Moderator: Cemal Kafadar, Harvard University

APRIL 2014

"I have no mother tongue, only my adopted language is my home": A talk by Israeli author Esty G. Hayim, who teaches creative writing at Seminar Hakibutzim College, Israel. Sponsored by the Center for Jewish Studies and the CMES Working Group on Middle East Literature in Transition.

Middle Eastern Literatures in the 21st Century: A conference organized by Professor William Granara and the CMES Working Group on Middle East Literature in Transition.



Esty G. Hayim



Yousif Hanna ('16)



Parisa Hashemean, Sheida Dayani, Daniel Rafinejad, and Chad Kia

- **Panel I: Arabic Literature in Exile:** Chair: Sandra Naddaff, Harvard University; Benjamin Smith, Harvard University: *Writing Egypt from the American Urban Landscape*; Simon Williams, Oxford University: Budrus: *The Graphic Novel & Narratives of Protest in Israel-Palestine*; Claudia Esposito, U Mass Boston: *Exilic Voices in Contemporary Italo-Maghrebi Literatures*; Yousif Hanna, Harvard College: *Hail Mary: An Iraqi Novel and its Novelist*
- **Panel II: New Directions in Israel Literature:** Chair: Irit Aharony, Harvard University; Daniel Behar, Harvard University: *Mourning & Dancing: Mordechai Galili's Long Poems*; Sadia Agsous, INALCO, Paris, France: *Sayed Kashua, a Palestinian writing in Hebrew*; Golan Moskowitz, Brandeis University: *Queer Affect & the Israeli Graphic Narrative of the 21st Century*; Danielle Drori, NYU: *Pseudo-biblicism, Parody, and Prophecy in Klil Zisapel's The Zionist Comedy*

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

■ Panel III: *Persian Literature*

Chair: Olga Davidson, Ilex Foundation; Chad Kia, Harvard University: *A Woman's Voice in Contemporary Afghan Fiction*; Daniel Rafinejad, Harvard University: *The Unusual Short Fiction of Mitra Eliyati*; Sheida Dayani, NYU: *Of Poetry and Its Translation*; Parisa Hashemean, GSD, Harvard: *Keep Out All Your Logics: Poetry and Painting of Amin Mansouri*

■ Panel IV: *Turkish Literature*

Chair: Himmeth Taskomur, Harvard University; Ceyhun Arslan, Harvard University: *Exile in the Past: Literary Heritage in Selim İleri's Mel'un*; Efe Murat Balikçioğlu, Harvard University: *Heves: Experimental Poetry in Turkey*; Roberta Micaleff, Boston University: *The Trauma of a Political Prisoner in the Family: The Yıldız Family*; Hacı Osman Gündüz, Tufts University: *İhsan Oktay Anar: The Ottoman Past and Magic Realism*

■ Panel V: *Arabic Literature*

Post 9/11: Chair: Margaret Litvin, Boston University; Allison Blecker, Harvard University: *Almond Trees & Olive Groves: Eco-nostalgia in Sa'akunu bayna al-*



Johan Mathew (PhD '12)



Bernadette Baird-Zars



Wilfrid Rollman, Sahar Bazzaz, and PhD student Dzavid Dzanic



Adam Shatz

lawz; Khaled Al-Masri, Swarthmore College: *When Men Become Wolves: Hassan Blasim's Poetics of Madness and Pain*; Luke Leafgren, Harvard University: *Muhsin Al-Ramli: Writing Iraq in the post-Saddam Era*; Sami Alkyam, Harvard College: *The Rape of the Female Body as Allegory for the Rape of a Nation*

MAY 2014

The Gulf: Past, Present, and

Future: A discussion of the history of the “Khalig” (Gulf) in terms of its ruling families, its

trading practices, and its place within the world of the Indian Ocean centered on Mumbai, as well as the larger world beyond.

■ **The Gulf Past:** Johan Mathew, University of Massachusetts at Amherst; Roger Owen, Harvard University

■ **The Gulf Present:** Bernadette Baird-Zars, Alarife Urban Associates, Boston; Brian Tilley, Johns Hopkins University

■ **The Gulf Future:** Michael Herb, Georgia State University; Pascal Menoret, NYU, Abu Dhabi

Writers or Missionaries?

Reporting the Middle East:

The 2014 Hilda B. Silverman Memorial Lecture by Adam Shatz, contributing editor at the *London Review of Books* and visiting professor at the Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies at New York University.

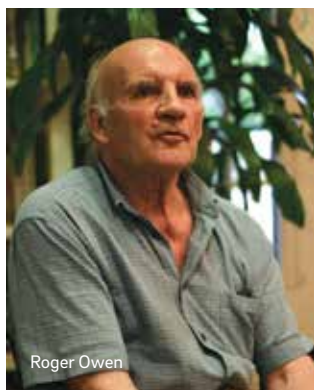
Sahra Shi'riyya (An Evening of Poetry):

Arabic recitations (with presentations in English) by graduate and undergraduate Arabic language students, sponsored by the CMES Working Group on Middle East Literature in Transition.

Mahmud Qabada: Poet of the Islamic Nahda in XIXth-century Tunisia, Youssef Ben Ismail; *Archaeological Poetics: Archiving Ottoman History in Ahmad Shawqi's Works*, Ceyhun Arslan; *Badr Shakir al-Sayyab: Breaking the Backbone of Poetry*, Daniel Behar; *Ahmad Fuad Nagm: Political Poetry in the Vernacular*, Sarah Moawad; *Humanizing the Other: A Reading in Mahmud Darwish's Poems*, Yousif Hanna

JULY & AUGUST 2014

Two Discussions with Roger Owen: A.J. Meyer Professor of Middle East History *Emeritus* Roger Owen led two discussion-based talks over the summer on current events in the Middle East, including the



Roger Owen

ongoing conflicts in Syria and Gaza and instability in Egypt. The audience included students and scholars from across Harvard as well as members of the local community.

SEPTEMBER 2014

Workshop: Arabic Sources for Modern North African History:

CMES Director William Granara convened a workshop in September in which faculty and graduate students discussed and evaluated the Arabic sources used in their own work on modern North Africa.

■ **Faculty Participants:**

William Granara, Harvard University; Malika Zeghal, Harvard University; Osami Abi-Mershed, Georgetown University; Sahar Bazzaz, Holy Cross; Wilfrid Rollman, Boston University; Hugh Roberts, Tufts University

■ **Student Participants:**

Dzavid Dzanic, Dept. of History; Ari Schriber, NELC; Youssef Ben Ismail, NELC; Greg Halaby, NELC; Mary Elston, NELC; Ceyhun Arslan, NELC; Laura Thompson, Committee on the Study of Religion.

SERIES SPOTLIGHT

MIDDLE EAST SEMINAR

This seminar series, co-sponsored by CMES and the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs (WCFA), brings ambassadors, dignitaries, journalists and scholars to lecture on topics in modern Middle East politics. Begun in 1975 by Edward Sheehan, a WCFA Fellow and former diplomat and journalist, the series has been chaired by Richard Clarke Cabot Professor of Social Ethics Herbert Kelman since 1977. CMES research associates Lenore Martin and Sara Roy joined Professor Kelman as co-chairs in 1996. The series' Fall 2014 line-up includes talks on Gaza, Syria, and Iran:

- **Iran: Where Do We Go from Here?**, September 4, 2014
Gary Sick, Executive Director, Gulf 2000, Adjunct Professor of International and Public Affairs, Senior Research Scholar, Columbia University
- **Salafism in Lebanon: From Apoliticism to Transnational Jihadism**, September 18, 2014 | Robert Rabil, Professor of Political Science, Florida Atlantic University
- **Constructing a Narrative of Reconciliation: A Personal Plea for Transformation of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**, October 9, 2014 | Herbert C. Kelman, Richard Clarke Cabot Professor of Social Ethics *Emeritus*, Harvard University
- **Working Across the Turkish border in Syria: Drinking from the Humanitarian Fire Hose**, October 23, 2014
Martha Myers, Country Director, Save The Children—Syria Response
- **Palestinian Strategy After Kerry and the War on Gaza: A Way Forward**, October 30, 2014 | Husam Zomlot, Executive Deputy, Fatah International Affairs Committee & Professor of Strategic Studies, Birzeit University
- **Jordan and the Politics of National Narratives: Current Challenges in Historical Perspective**, October 30, 2014
Laurie Brand, Robert Grandford Wright Professor of International Relations, Professor of Middle East Studies, University of Southern California
- **What about Gaza: The War that Both Sides Lost**
November 20, 2014 | Yoram Peri, Abraham S. and Jack Kay Chair in Israel Studies, Director of the Joseph B. and Alma Goldenhorn Institute for Israeli Studies, University of Maryland, College Park

→ Video of the poetry evening and Adam Shatz's Silverman lecture is available at cmes.hmdc.harvard.edu

